

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 497

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to join with the members of the Lupus Foundation of America, Mid-South Chapter, as they commemorate May 2016 as "Lupus Awareness Month."

WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as "National Lupus Awareness Month" to show support for the 1.5 million Americans who have lupus, a chronic disease that causes the immune system to attack and damage the body's healthy tissues and organs; and

WHEREAS, over 35,000 Tennesseans have been diagnosed with lupus, and countless others are undiagnosed but living with the physical and emotional symptoms and impacts of lupus, such as organ failure, fatigue, pain, infertility, miscarriage, seizures, strokes, and depression; and

WHEREAS, the causes and disparate occurrence of lupus eludes researchers, particularly that nine out of ten lupus patients are women and that lupus is more prevalent among Africans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians; and

WHEREAS, fewer than thirty-two percent of Americans have knowledge about lupus, even those at greater risk for the disease because of gender, race, ethnicity, or family occurrence; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for lupus and only a few treatments, most with devastating side effects; and

WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America, Mid-South Chapter, serves all Tennesseans through its mission to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus through programs of research, education, and advocacy and acts as a cohesive voice to make

lupus a household word through its KNOW LUPUS messaging and educational initiatives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the members of the Lupus Foundation of America, Mid-South Chapter, as they commemorate May 2016 as "Lupus Awareness Month."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.